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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 28416

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: JUNE 19 SESSION

REF: A) SAIGON 28298, B) SAIGON 28129

1. NA DEBATED DIRECTORATE'S DECISION TO REVISE PRIOR TO PROMULGATION ARTICLE 30 OF UPPER HOUSE ELECTION LAW. CHANGE INVOLVED ALLOWING VOTERS TO VOTE FOR SIX UPPER HOUSE TISTS RATHER THAN ONLY TWO AS NA HAD DECIDED AT JUNE 13 SESSION (REFB).

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2. DEMOCRATIC-ALLIANCE MEMBERS CRITICIZED DIRECTORATE SEVERELY FOR CHANGING PROVISION WHICH HAD BEEN ADOPTED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF NA MEMBERSHIP. THEY LABELLED DIRECTORATE'S DECISION AS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND UNDEMOCRATIC. "OPPOSITION" DEPUTIES GENERALLY CAME TO DIRECTORATE'S DEFENSE ARGUING THAT NA HAD ITSELF TO BLAME BECAUSE IT HAD CHOSEN COMPROMISE "TWO LIST" FORMULA RATHER THAN CHOOSING BETWEEN ORIGINAL WORDING (ONE BALLOT PER VOTER) AND DIRECTORATE'S PROPOSED AMENDMENT. A NUMBER ALSO POINTED OUT THAT LAW ALREADY PROMULGATED AND NOT MUCH COULD BE DONE TO CHANGE IT NOW.

3. AS RECESS TIME APPROACHED NA CHAIRMAN SUU SOUGHT TO PUT MATTER TO VOTE, OFFERING DEPUTIES CHOICE BETWEEN FOLLOWING THREE ALTERNATIVES: 1) APPROVE, AFTER THE FACT, THE DIRECTORATE'S CHANGE; 2) ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT PROTESTING THE DIRECTORATE'S DECISION OR 3) RESIGN FROM NA. SUU'S PROPOSAL PROVOKED MARKED DETERIORATION IN NA DECORUM. SEVERAL DEPUTIES ATTEMPT TO REACH ROSTRUM

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REVIEWED BY Dean Dzenko DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
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SIMULTANEOUSLY; AFTER ALLOWING SEVERAL MORE DEPUTIES TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS SUU, OBSERVING THAT AN ORDERLY VOTE WAS IMPOSSIBLE, ADJOURNED MORNING SESSION.

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4. AT BEGINNING OF AFTERNOON SESSION DEPUTIES, WITHOUT ADDITIONAL DEBATE, OPTED BY VOTE OF 46 IN FAVOR OUT OF 76 DEPUTIES PRESENT FOR SECOND SOLUTION PROPOSED BY SUU, I.E. ISSUANCE OF COMMUNIQUE PROTESTING DIRECTORATE'S DECISION. COMMUNIQUE WILL BE DRAFTED BY NA SECRETARIAT.

5. NA DEVOTED REMAINDER OF JUNE 19 SESSION TO FORMATION OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE, WHICH, ACCORDING TO NA RULES WILL EXAMINE DOSSIERS AND PASS ON CREDENTIALS OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES. NA DECIDED TO SET MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE AT 16 WITH 3 BLOCS AND INDEPENDENTS REPRESENTED EQUALLY. INDEPENDENT NGUYEN THANH VINH WAS ELECTED COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BY 37 VOTES TO 33 FOR DEMOCRATIC-ALLIANCE DEPUTY TRUONG TIEN DAT.

6. ALSO DISCUSSED BRIEFLY WAS "CLERICAL ERROR" COMMITTED BY NA STAFF WHICH RESULTED IN OMISSION OF ARTICLE 14(10) OF UPPER HOUSE LAW PRIOR TO TRANSMISSION TO DIRECTORATE. LAW THEREFORE PROMULGATED WITHOUT 14(10) WHICH WOULD HAVE ALLOWED SENATORIAL CANDIDATES OCCUPYING ELECTIVE POSITIONS FROM THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL UPWARDS (NA DEPUTIES,

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PROVINCIAL OR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS) TO FILE CANDIDACIES WITHOUT GOING THROUGH SCREENING FORMALITIES. A NUMBER OF DEPUTIES SUGGESTED THAT THIS OMISSION MAY HAVE BEEN MORE THAN MERE CLERICAL OVERSIGHT AND DEMANDED THAT QUESTION OF 14(10) BE PLACE ON NA AGENDA. HOWEVER, NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS DEMAND.

7. COMMENT: RIVALRY BETWEEN GENERALS THIEU AND KY CLEARLY REFLECTED IN JUNE 19 NA DEBATE. KY FAVORED THE TWO LIST SOLUTION. HE REPORTEDLY OPPOSED DIRECTORATE'S DECISION TO UNILATERALLY REVISE ARTICLE 30 OF UPPER HOUSE LAW. KY SUPPORTERS IN ASSEMBLY TOOK LEAD IN DENOUNCING DIRECTORATE'S DECISION WHIL DEPUTIES NORMALLY CONSIDERED OPPOSITIONISTS DEFENDED IT.

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8. PROBABLY PROPOSAL FOR MASS RESIGNATIONS WAS NOT A SERIOUS THREAT, ALTHOUGH SOME DEPUTIES HAD DISCUSSED SUCH A MOVE WITH EMBOFFS. BY OPTING FOR A COMMUNIQUE, NA HAS IN ANY EVENT AVOIDED MORE EXTREME SOLUTIONS OF ENDORSING DIRECTORATE'S MODIFICATION OF ARTICLE 30 OR MASS PROTEST RESIGNATIONS. AS SELF-RESPECTING GROUP OF LEGISLATORS, FORMER SOLUTION WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFI-

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CULT TO ACCEPT AND LATTER SOLUTION WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE BEEN DANGEROUS STEP LEADING TO DISRUPTION OF ENTIRE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS. CONFLICT BETWEEN KY SUPPORTERS AND TTHER DEPUTIES NOW REDUCED TO MORE TOLERABLE LIMITS OF JUST HOW STRONGLY WORDED PROTEST COMMUNIQUE SHOULD BE. NA SECGEN TUNG TELLS US THAT COMMUNIQUE WILL BE WORDED QUITE MILDLY, ALTHOUGH THIS REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

9. VICTORY OF NGUYEN THANH VINH OVER TRUONG TIEN DAT AS CHAIRMAN OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE EXAMINING CREDENTIALS OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SHOULD ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO FELT SCREENING PROCESS WOULD BE UNFAIR. VINH IS INDEPENDENT INFORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH SOUTHERN RENASSANCE BLOC. HE IS ALSO CLOSE TO DR. DAN. ELECTION OF VINH ALSO ILLUSTRATES DISRUPTIVE EFFECT OF DIRECTORATE DIVISIONS ON DEMOCRATIC-ALLIANCE BLOC DISCIPLINE.

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